



**Accepted Compostable Products for the City of Eugene**  
**Love Food Not Waste Program**  
*Updated January 15, 2013*

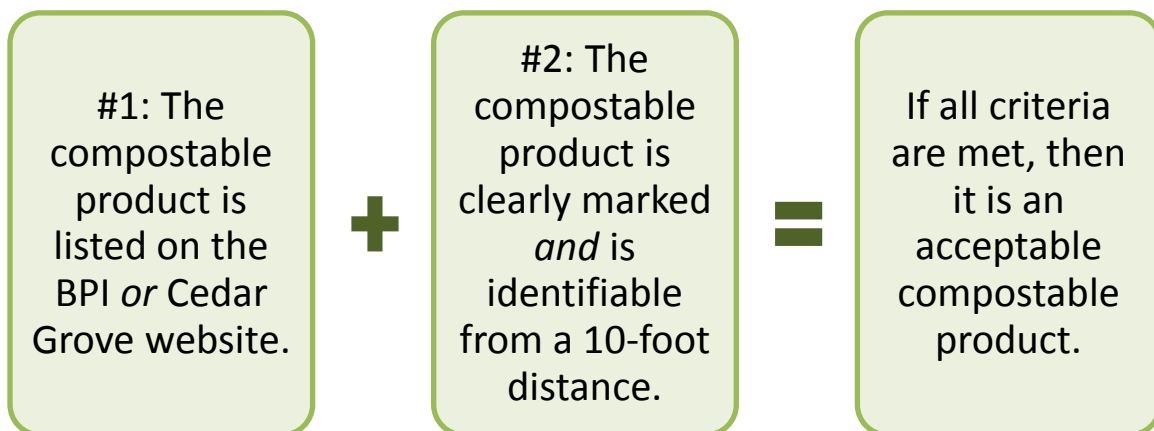
The City of Eugene's Love Food Not Waste commercial compost program allows certain types of compostable plastics and serviceware to be collected with food waste and plant trimmings. These guidelines will help you determine what items are compostable by Rexius, which is currently the only commercial composter in Eugene accepting these materials. In order to create a quality final compost product and bring our program full circle, please follow these provided guidelines when purchasing compostable products.

We recognize that we are working in a field that changes rapidly. For this reason, City staff will update and disperse the guidelines every six months. If at any point you have questions, please contact the Love Food Not Waste Coordinator at 541-682-5652 or [Stephanie.scafa@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:Stephanie.scafa@ci.eugene.or.us).

### **Contamination**

Compost facilities face a few distinct challenges with compostable plastics. First, compostable plastics do not add any nutrients to the soil during the compost process. Second, materials that do not compost negatively affect the final product and make it difficult to sell. Contamination is anything that is not organic, including plastic, plastic lined paper products, glass, metal, rubber, rocks, sod, dirt, or any other "compostable" container or utensil that does not meet specific criteria.

**All compostable products purchased in Eugene must comply with the following:**



**Note: 'Biodegradable' does NOT mean 'Compostable'. Make sure all products comply with BPI or Cedar Grove first.**



**Criteria #1: Is the compostable product listed on the BPI or Cedar Grove website?**

Acceptable compostable containers or utensils must be certified by one of two third-party verifiers:

- **Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI):** <http://www.bpiworld.org/BPI-Public/Approved/1.html>



- **Cedar Grove Composting:** <http://www.cedar-grove.com/commercial/accepted-items/>



Review these websites and look for these two symbols when purchasing compostable products.



## Criteria #2: Is the compostable product 'clearly marked'?

Although a 'clear marking' on a compostable product might seem subjective, Rexius aims to accept products that have an identifiable marking on them, such as an obvious brown or green line, or the word "COMPOSTABLE" written on the product. In the case of utensils, natural-colored compostable utensils (brown are the best) would indicate that the forks, knives, and spoons are able to be composted.

### Example: 'Brown Line' Packaging

The Brown Line Food Service Ware and Packaging is a certification strategy approved by Cedar Grove. This packaging is designed to eliminate the concerns involving compostable products. They supply anything from meat trays, gloves, and clear clam shells for the deli to straws, plates, and hot and cold cups with lids for the food. Products have an obvious brown line on them and the utensils they offer are also brown:



### Example: International Paper's 'Ecotainer' Products

International Paper's ecotainer family of products are made from renewable resources such as Sustainable Forestry Initiative certified paperboard and Polylactic Acid (commonly known as PLA), a plant-based plastic material. The ecotainer family of products include hot cups, cold cups, and food containers.





## **Criteria #2 (continued): Is the compostable product clearly identifiable from 10 feet away?**

Can you identify that the product is compostable from 10 feet away? Does the product say 'COMPOSTABLE'? Are there green or brown markings on the container that would make it easy for the composter to know that it is compostable? Plain WHITE and CLEAR plastic-looking products WILL NOT be accepted in the compost facility, even though they might comply with BPI and/or Cedar Grove standards. The purpose of this standard is that when the material arrives at Rexius, a worker must be able to quickly identify any trash to pull it out. If they need to spend extra time looking at materials, **the entire load will be sent to the landfill....increasing the cost of the program.**

(Remember: 'Biodegradable' does NOT mean 'Compostable'. Make sure all products comply with BPI or Cedar Grove first).

## **Purchasing Compostable Products in Eugene**

Below is the listing of suppliers in our local area which carry acceptable compostable serviceware products. If you know of another company that supplies materials which meet the program guidelines, please contact the Love Food Not Waste Coordinator.

### Distributors

#### **Food Services of America**

<http://www.fsafood.com/main/serviceareas/portland.aspx/>  
350 S. Pacific Highway  
Woodburn, OR 97071  
(503) 980-2500

#### **Sysco Portland**

<http://www.syscoportland.com/ordereze/default.aspx>  
26250 SW Parkway Center Dr.  
Wilsonville, OR 97070  
(503) 682-8700

#### **McDonald Wholesale**

<http://www.mcdonaldwhsl.com/>  
2350 W. Broadway  
Eugene, OR 97402  
(541) 345-8421

#### **Service Paper Company**

<http://www.servicepaper.com/index.html>  
8911 NE Marx Drive #A  
Portland, OR 97220  
(503) 937-3000

#### **Portland Paper & Supply**

<http://www.pdxxpaper.com/index.html>  
307 SE Washington St.  
Portland, OR 97214  
(503) 235-2355

#### **R3-Redistribution**

<http://r3redistribution.com/foodservice/>  
13015 SE Jennifer St. #3  
Clackamas, OR 97015  
(503) 557-7400

### Stores and Online Resources

Cash & Carry  
4214 W 5th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97402  
541-344-4042

Cedar Grove-approved Brown Line product catalog:  
<http://cedargrovepackaging.com/pdfs/products.pdf>



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Cedar Grove online store:

[http://www.gogreenscene.com/Cedar\\_Grove\\_Packaging-list.aspx](http://www.gogreenscene.com/Cedar_Grove_Packaging-list.aspx)

Office Max

<http://www.officemax.com/catalog/search.jsp?searchText=Search+by+Keyword+or+Item+%23&freeText=compostable&search.x=0&search.y=0>

Walter E. Nelson Company

<http://www.walterenelson.com/index.php>

1369 W. 6th Ave # 120

Eugene, OR 97402

(541) 344-0651